MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 DECEMBER 1981

Israeli-U.S. Relations

Jerusalem radio reported that during a meeting with U.S. Senator Charles Percy, Prime Minister Menahem Begin repeatedly stressed Israel's "serious reservations" about U.S. behavior toward Israel. Another radio report said Percy made it clear that an improvement in U.S.-Israeli relations depends on Israel's willingness to accept three or four more Arab countries in the peace process. However, according to Jerusalem radio, Percy later said the meeting had cleared up misunderstandings and opened a new page in U.S.-Israeli relations. The radio noted that the talks covered the Golan Heights issue, the situation in southern Lebanon and the autonomy talks.

Jerusalem radio revealed that Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche visited Washington a few days ago for talks with senior U.S. officials on bilateral relations.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

According to HA'ARETZ, during a 28 December meeting with Likud faction members, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir criticized official Egyptian statements calling on the United States to punish Israel because of the Golan Heights Law. He said the United States should understand that the Camp David agreement could be undermined if the commitment of one of the partners weakened. According to Jerusalem radio's Arabic service, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official spokesman denied that any official Egyptian statement had mentioned the application of sanctions against Israel. He noted that Egypt has not sought and will not seek sanctions but has asked the United States to play a positive role in removing the "obstacle" of the Golan Heights Law from the path of peace. On the other hand, MENA reported that the 30 December issue of the Egyptian newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH called on the United States to join the international community in whatever measures it decides to take against Israel over the Golan Heights issue to make Israel understand that annexing the land of others is inconsistent with the peace process.

Egypt

Cairo radio reported that the defense lawyers in the As-Sadat assassination trial walked out of the court after it rejected their arguments that the charges against the defendants are unconstitutional. One of the defense lawyers said the walkout was in protest at the court's refusal to hold the trial in public and to allow certain witnesses to appear, AFP reported. According to Cairo radio, the lawyers were fined 50 pounds each and the trial was postponed until 5 January. The radio said other lawyers will be assigned to the case.

Lebanon

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio broadcast a statement issued by the Higher Security Committee of the Lebanese National Movement and the Arab Deterrent Forces listing the objectives of the new security measures in Beirut as: 1) Stopping the sabotage campaign launched by "hostile forces," 2) removing all "armed manifestations" and strictly punishing violators, 3) preventing the firing of guns during celebrations and 4) ensuring the removal of vehicles and obstacles from the streets and sidewalks. The radio noted that joint patrols have been deployed to detect explosives and surveil possible sabotage targets.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Syrian Mediation -- According to SANA, Kuwait has welcomed President Hafiz al-Asad's reported intention to hold contacts with the Iranian leaders to end the war. Kuwait is ready to contribute to the success of this mission, the report said. SANA also noted that an Iranian delegation headed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati would arrive in Damascus on 31 December. Meanwhile, Tehran radio reported that Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi welcomed the possibility of a visit to Iran by President al-Asad. Baghdad radio's Voice of Arab Syria denounced Al-Asad's support for Iran, describing him as "more Persian than the Persians" because of his denials that Iran has received arms from Israel -- an accusation which, the radio said, even the Iranians themselves have admitted.

Iranian Warning to Gulf States -- Tehran radio reported that in a press conference Iranian Government spokesman Ahmad Tavakkoli asked Gulf countries not to support Iraq in its war with Iran lest they suffer the same "fate" as Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Noting U.S. support for the Gulf Cooperation Council, he said Iran would like the Arabs to be united, "but this unity should not be planned by the United States."

Iran

Rafsanjani Remarks, Khalkhali Assignment -- In a speech to the Majlis reported by Tehran radio, Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani called for a "sharp and bloody purge" to eliminate terrorist opponents of the regime. According to the clandestine Radio Iran, Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali has been authorized to purge the armed forces of opponents of the regime.

Security Situation -- Tehran radio reported that revolution guards in Rasht arrested 15 Peykar members and 11 Mojahedin-e Khalq during the past week. According to Ahvaz radio, Andimeshk revolution guards arrested 12 Mojahedin recently. The clandestine Radio Iran said revolution guards have arrested 172 opponents of the regime in Tehran.

PARS becomes IRNA -- Tehran radio reported that the Majlis approved a bill changing the name of PARS news agency to the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA). The news agency began transmissions under the new name on 29 December.

Iraqi-Libyan Relations

Citing diplomatic sources in Amman, Monte Carlo radio reported that Iraq and Libya have restored diplomatic relations.

Afghanistan

According to IRNA, Afghan guerrillas downed two Soviet helicopter gunships and killed 104 Soviet troops during clashes in Helmand Province.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL CHAIRS SESSION OF PDPA POLITBURO

LD272252 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Text] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was chaired this afternoon by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council at the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

At the meeting the results of the official visit of the high ranking DRA party and government delegation, headed by Comrade Babrak Karmal, to the People's Republic of Bulgaria were discussed and highly assessed.

Also, satisfaction was expressed at the meeting between Comrade Babrak Karmal and Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in Moscow and the award of the order of the Azadi Khorshed-e Azadi given by Comrade Babrak Karmal to Comrade L.I. Brezhnev on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo completely affirmed the outcome of the talks of Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and the documents and agreements that were signed during the visit in the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The working plan and general duties of party and government for the last quarter of 1360 [ending 20 March 1981] were approved at today's meeting of the Politburo, and necessary measures were taken concerning their implementation. According to this working plan on general duties [word indistinct] decision was made on the planning and organizing of its action.

The Politburo also decided that the distribution of party membership cards should begin from the day of the 17th anniversary of the PDPA's founding.

EXPLOSION AT 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY'S' HOME

LD272214 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Text] A bomb explosion at 0800 on Friday, 25 December, in a house in Kabul has exposed another evil feature of the counterrevolutionaries. The explosion, which occurred in a house belonging to (Mohammad Anwer), injured (Mohammad Akbar), a student at the economics college, and two members of his family.

A spokesman of the security force said (Mohammad Akbar), who fled the scene and who is a terrorist and saboteur, has been arrested in the region of Mahtab-Qala. As a result of a search of the home of (Mohammad Akbar) who is also a counterrevolutionary, three time-bombs, six fuses and a quantity of explosives used by the counterrevolutionaries in their terrorist activities have been discovered.

KABUL REPORTS SECURITY OPERATIONS AGAINST REBELS

LD262006 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 26 Dec 81

[Excerpt] As a result of the attack of our brave and heroic security forces, a number of rebels were recently crushed in Goushtah District, Nangarhar Province. Ringleader Abdol Baqi, and his assistant, Abdol Sa'id, met the punishment of their evil and shameful action.

Another group of terrorists and plunderers were crushed in Kamal Khan Pset, Nimruz Province, by the grave and vigilant sarandoy force. A large number of weapons, documents and propaganda leaflets were confiscated by the sarandoy force.

According to another report, as a result of the operations of a sarandoy regiment in Faryab Province against the rebels in Panjshir, (Shah Folad) and (Azizan) 12 of the counterrevolutionaries were captured and a number of them were crushed, a sufficient amount of documents have been confiscated.

GANDHI SPEAKS ON NO-WAR PACT, IMF LOAN

BK291256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has said that India will continue to be vigilant against aggression. Addressing a crowded press conference in Calcutta, she said the country will at the same time make every possible attempt for peace and friendship in the subcontinent. She said that the facts cannot be ignored that it is India which has been attacked 5 or 6 times. On the contrary, India has never committed aggression, Mrs Gandhi pointed out.

Referring to the so-called no-war pact of Pakistan, the prime minister said that although that country has tried to pretend that it has suddenly produced something like a no-war pact, it is actually India which has taken all the initiatives for peace.

Mrs Gandhi recalled that it is she who had established diplomatic relations with Pakistan and also invited the late Zulfiqar 'Ali Bhutto to sign the Simla Agreement.

Replying to a question on the IMF loan, the prime minister said the government has not accepted any conditions from the fund.

GANDHI RULES OUT CHANGE IN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

BK271309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Text] The prime minister has ruled out any change in the present parliamentary system of government. In an interview with a Western journalist in New Delhi, Mrs Gandhi said the country cannot have a different constitution from what it has at present. She felt that there is need for reforms in the educational, judicial and administrative systems but not in our basic commitments enshrined in the constitution.

Referring to the opposition parties, the prime minister said their whole strategy during this year has been to try to alienate from her party those who supported it, like the working classes, farmers, the minorities, women and harijans. But, she said, the opposition is not going to succeed because the workers are with her party and they have not complained.

Explaining the reasons for measures to prevent strikes, Mrs Gandhi said that the country has suffered a lot because of strikes in ports and defense establishments. The country cannot afford such things in the present economic situation, she added.

OPPOSITION PARTIES TO HOLD JOINT MEETINGS

BK290215 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Leaders of three opposition parties -- Janata, Lok Dal and Congress-S -- have decided to hold a series of joint public meetings on issues facing the country. At a meeting in New Delhi today, Charan Singh, Chandrashekhar and Sharad Pawar decided to set up a coordination committee to plan a joint action.

STATESMAN ON SINO-INDIAN BORDER DISCUSSIONS

BK281628 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Dec 81 p 8

[Editorial: "Waiting for Next Round"]

[Text] No one had expected any "breakthrough" in Sino-Indian relations from the official-level talks in Beijing: Indeed, the two governments themselves had avoided playing up the importance of an exchange at this level after 20 years.

The statements made at the end of the talks seemed remarkable for their lack of any optimistic note.

There was no joint declaration: The Chinese Foreign Ministry went no further than referring to the "amicable atmosphere" and "positive attitude" of the two sides during the talks; and it was an Indian Embassy spokesman, not the leader of the Indian delegation, who said that there had been "a frank and friendly exchange of views on the boundary question," adding that this had revealed both the extent of the differences that remained and the two sides' desire to resolve them.

Admittedly, it was known, as the Indian official explained, that several rounds of talks would be needed in search of a solution; but nothing has been firmly said about further meetings. All that was indicated at the end of the talks was that the two sides would continue their "contacts" in an effort to reach a border settlement.

This might seem an anti-climax after the hopes raised by the Chinese foreign minister's visit to India. But it cannot come entirely as a surprise if one considers subsequent developments and indications of the official mood in Beijing and New Delhi.

India has had reason to resent certain observatins by Chinese media, as Beijing must have considered it unhelpful that Indian leaders should speak again about Chinese occupation of Indian territory and China's responsibility for the conflict in Kampuchea. The Chinese took exception to a message to Taiwan sent by a large group of Indian MPs, including some of the ruling party, and may have concluded from the available evidence that New Delhi was not anxious for an early political settlement.

Lest India should take their own eagerness for granted, they made it clear, by objections to the Arunachal speaker's inclusion in the Indian delegation, that their acceptance of the McMahon line would be a concession in the interest of an overall settlement if India made a reciprocal gesture over Aksai Chin. This could not but be regarded by India as unacceptable in its basic premise.

The fact of the matter is that New Delhi does not seem to consider a political settlement with China to be possible, or desperately needed, in the immediate context. This view may have prevailed even during Mr Huang Hua's visit, and must have been confirmed by developments since.

South block does not wish to consider Sino-Indian relations in isolation from India's worsening relations with Pakistan and the United States; the idea of a USA-China-Pakistan axis may not seem too fanciful to it; and suspicions may merely have been strengthened by reported U.S. anxiety for an early resolution of the Sino-Indian differences.

Apparently New Delhi does not wish to do anything that might isolate the Soviet Union in a region of interacting interests. The Chinese may have sensed this months ago, and probably found further confirmation in repeated postponement of the official-level talks.

However, the first round cannot have done any damage; indeed, a clearer appreciation of mutual interests and calculations may even be beneficial.

The absence of any effusive statement at the end of the talks does not necessarily mean that they failed. But whether they marked a useful beginning may be clear only after something is known about the next round. So far, there is no indication of when or where it will be held, or whether there is going to be another meeting at all.

NATIONAL HERALD EDITORIAL ON INDO-USSR TRADE

BK300449 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 27 Dec 81 p 7

[Editorial: "Indo-USSR Trade"]

[Text] The trade protocol signed with the Soviet Union for 1982 is yet another milestone in the growing economic ties between New Delhi and Moscow. From a tiny figure of Rs 1.3 crore in 1953, the trade turnover envisaged for the next year is placed at over Rs 3,200 crore. This represents a 11-per:ent rise over last year's figure of Rs 2,940 crore. The most heartening aspect of the protocol is higher Indian exports to the USSR which, at Rs 1,760 crore, will mean a 22-percent increase over last year's exports.

This marks a significant departure from the past. The trade turnover between India and the Soviet Union showed a sudden spurt between 1972 and 1975 mainly on account of higher import of petroleum and its products by New Delhi following the OPEC price hike. During the next 5 years till 1980, the supplies of crude oil and petroleum products had reached 6 million tonnes and 8 million tonnes respectively, and this accounted for the bulk of Indian imports from the USSR. For the past 2 years, however, the exports of Indian manufactured goods have shown a steady increase, while the traditional exports like cashewnuts, tobacco, tea, leather goods have grown apace. In fact, agricultural exports to Russia form almost 30 percent of India's total exports of such items.

The first major breakthrough in Indo-Soviet economic cooperation was the setting up of the Bhilai steel plant. This proved to be a trend-setter for manifold bilateral cooperation which has burgeoned over the years. These trade links have helped India to cushion herself against the shocks caused by runaway petroleum price increases. Today the items selected for trade by the two countries are complementary to the needs of their planned economies, thus giving a permanent base to the growing trade ties. Indeed, India holds the top position in the Soviet trade and economic relations with Third World countries.

BRIEFS

GAS STRUCK IN GUJARAT -- High quality gas in large quantity has been struck in the Paliyad village in the Bharoch District of Gujarat. The All-India radio Bharoch correspondent, quoting Oil and Natural Gas Commission sources, says the new gasfield comes as a Christmas gift. It was struck at a depth of over 3,000 meters on Wednesday night. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Dec 81 BK]

URDU NEWS SERVICE INAUGURATED -- On December 16 Vice President Hidayatullah inaugurated the Urdu news service launched by SAMACHAR BHARATI NEWS AGENCY in New Delhi. This is the 11th language news service being run by the agency in 7 cities. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Vasant Sathe said the government will provide all possible help to small newspapers to enable them to grow and increase their circulation. [Text] [Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0943 GMT 17 Dec 81 BK]

ARAB, OPEC AID -- India is a major beneficiary of development assistance offered by Arab institutions and the OPEC Fund, receiving over $88 million out of the aid commitment of over $579 million during the 2d quarter of the current year. Pakistan got over $42 million and Bangladesh over $28 million. This was revealed by the OPEC monthly bulletin. [Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 19 Dec 81 BK]

ISLAMABAD DENIES TASS REPORT ON TROOP DEPLOYMENT

BK291617 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Text] Official sources in Islamabad today, citing an English Indian newspaper, have strongly denied a report by the Soviet news agency TASS from New Delhi alleging that Pakistan is concentrating its troops on the border with India. Describing the report as baseless and mischievous, the sources said that the allegation has evidently been made by interested quarters to impair the chances of improving relations between two neighboring countries. The official sources added that the propagation of the report is aimed at undermining the diplomatic efforts being made between Pakistan and India for a no-war pact as proposed by Pakistan.

PRESIDENT REITERATES STAND ON AFGHANISTAN

BK280353 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan is willing to cooperate in the implementation of any international guarantee under which there is a complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan according to an established timetable. The president said this is a message to a Karachi monthly which has brought out a special publication on the Afghanistan situation to mark the second anniversary of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. The president said such guarantees would naturally ensure respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states in the region on the basis of strict observance of the principle of noninterference.

The president said Pakistan's stand on the Afghan situation for political negotiations is both positive and flexible. He added that Pakistan is prepared to set aside procedural problems and engage in an exchange of views on substantive issues through the UN secretary general or his representative, while at the same time preparing the ground for trilateral talks between representative of the Governemnt of Pakistan and Iran as well as the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

The president said Pakistan is firmly committed to the basic principles of its policy on the Afghanistan situation which, he added, have been unanimously supported in resolutions of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Oragnization and endorsed by the Nonaligned Movement. These principles are: total withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan; restoration of the independence and nonaligned status of Afghanistan; respect for the right of the Afghan people to determine their own destiny and to choose their own form of government in accordance with their wishes, free from external interference; and the creation of conditions which would permit the Afghan refugees to return to their homes in safety and honor.

The president said Pakistan firmly believes in peaceful settlement and it is exploring all appropriate means to find a just political solution of this issue.

SAUDI OIL MINISTER YAMANI VISITS OFFICIALS

BK290149 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani called on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening. They exchanged views on matters of common interest. Later, the Saudi oil minister attended a dinner hosted in his honor by the president.

Earlier, Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani called on his Pakistani counterpart Major General (retired) Rao Farman Ali Khan and discussed with him matters of mutual interest. Formal talks between the two ministers will be held tomorrow. The Saudi oil minister arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on an official visit to Pakistan.

Meets Counterpart

BK291246 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Text] Prospects of collaboration between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in the energy sector were reviewed in detail at the formal talks held in Islamabad today between the visiting Saudi oil minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani and Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources retired Maj Gen Rao Farman Ali Khan.

Shaykh Zaki Yamani agreed to supply Pakistan's entire requirements in the form of light Arabian crude. The Government of Pakistan will have substantial foreign exchange through this arrangement. Earlier, the petroleum minister briefed the distinguished guest about the energy problem being faced by Pakistan and the efforts which the present government was making to overcome these. He said besides religious revival, the government endeavors centered in the economic sector.

Later, the Saudi oil minister described his discussions with the Pakistan petroleum minister as useful. He said that they discussed cooperation on energy needs of Pakistan and possibilities of cooperation in the energy sector.

Radio Pakistan's representative says for the last 5 years, the Pakistan Government has been trying to get its crude requirements from Saudi Arabia in the form of light crude. However, in the light of Saudi Arabia's policy, Pakistan was required to lift both medium and heavy crude along with light Arabian crude.

SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER LEAVES FOR HOME 23 DEC

BK231645 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz left Quetta this afternoon for home.

INDIAN AMBASSADOR STRESSES ECONOMIC RELATIONS

BK261603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Dec 81

[Text] Addressing the Lahore Chamber of Commerce today, Indian Ambassador to Pakistan Natwar Singh urged the business community of that country to get over misconceptions in regard to trade with India.

He sought their help to evolve a satisfactory trade formula. The ambassador emphasized the need to consolidate the spirit of the Simla Agreement by promoting economic cooperation, saying that no relationship can last until it has an economic content.

12 CONNECTED WITH SUBVERSIVE ACTS ARRESTED

BK291544 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Text] It has been officially stated in Lahore today that 12 persons connected with subversive activities have been arrested. A large amount of arms and ammunitions have been recovered from them.

The deputy inspector general of police told newsmen in Lahore this afternoon that these persons had undergone training in Kabul and they had weapons and explosives with them. Giving the details of the arrest of these persons and recovery of weapons, he said that a person named (Abdur Razzak) was arrested following the murder of Choudhury Zahur Elahi who gave the names of his accomplices after being interrogated.

SRI LANKA

WEEKEND: SEPARATISTS URGE GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE

BK251524 Colombo WEEKEND in English 20 Dec 81 p 1

[By Jennifer Henricus]

[Text] Sri Lanka's diplomatic missions abroad and the intelligence parties have made available to government details of moves by groups of expatriate Tamils to unilaterally declare the establishment of "Eelam".

These reports have revealed that the separatist activists abroad, who are planning the Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) in January, have embarked on publicising a demand for a Kampuchean style "government in exile" for Eelam.

According to these reports one of the main leaders of the campaign is Krishna Vaikunthavasan, a London-based lawyer who created a major furore at the united General Assembly [as published] a few years ago when he tried to "hijack" the rostrum at the time when Lanka's Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed was due to address the Assembly.

Vaikunthavasan, who calls himself the convenor of the Tamil Co-ordinating Committee (TCC) with an office on Colliers Road, London, has already publicised a draft resolution for the formation of the so-called "interim provisional government of Tamil Eelam", which he says will be known as the "London resolution", the reports have revealed.

According to the draft the scheduled date of the UDI is the Thai Pongal festival on January 14, 1982.

The reports on the resolution have also revealed that endorsements for the propaganda of the "government in exiles" is being supported by certain Indians. The draft resolution of the TCC names a high ranking member of the Indian Lok Sabha as a supporter.

The TCC in its resolution also urges the United Nations to take steps to ensure peaceful transfer of power from the Sri Lanka Government to the new "government in exile" of Eelam. It also stresses that the Security Council of the UN has power to intervene and send UN troops to restore law and order.

According to the reports reaching government, the TCC hardly hides its admiration of the Indian freedom fighter, Subas Chandra Bose, who proclaimed the formation of a provisional government of free India in Singapore in 1943. A group of fanatics styling themselves as "members of an organisation called Azad Hind Sena" who stormed the Lankan trade mission in Bombay last month too admitted to following Bose.

According to observers, what has irked most Lankans abroad is the new move by the TCC to extort funds from them.

During the top level discussion last week between the TULF and the government, Mr. Amirthalingham dissociated his party from moves to make a UDI for the Eelam state.

BRIEFS

CRUDE OIL FROM MALAYSIA -- The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation will buy about 240,000 metric tons of crude oil from Malaysia in 1982. The contract is valued at 1.3 million rupees. The contract was signed by the chairman of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation in Kuala Lumpur on 22 December. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Dec 81 BK]

MUSAVI COMMENTS ON CONTACTS WITH SYRIA

LD291832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Text] This afternoon Prime Minister Musavi in an exclusive interview with PARS concerning a visit by Mr Hafiz al-Asad to Iran said: We welcome this visit. During this visit our brother can familiarize himself firsthand with the realities of the war and the revolutionary attitude of the people; he will see how the regime of America's Saddam inflicted many calamities not only upon our nation but also upon the oppressed Iraqi nation.

The prime minister added: These trips help visitors to witness the facts firsthand and to discover the realities as they are.

In reply to a question by a reporter who asked the prime minister how he saw the future of the war, he said: We have plans for the future of the war; it will certainly end with the definite victory of our country and nation.

RAFSANJANI ON IRAQ, ISRAEL, PROPAGANDA

LD281104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Excerpts] In an interview Speaker of the Islamic Majlis Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, commenting on Iran's policy toward other countries of the region, said: Small countries to the south of the Persian Gulf can have the support of Islamic Iran if they follow the right path, refuse to be puppets of America, try to move in the interests of their nations and remain with God. The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, commenting on the spirit of action in Islam's army said: As long as Iraq's aggression continues, and if we deem it necessary, we would consider it our right to defend ourselves inside Iraqi territory.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis, remarking on the intensification of organized propaganda by the region's reactionary countries against the Islamic revolution of Iran, and also Bahrain's recent claims, said: These claims are a new act in the propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran which is being led by the United States. Iraq and its collaborators have realized that aggression against Iran and this war will not have a beneficial outcome for them; that is why they have mounted a propaganda campaign with the help of American experts. Each is acting according to his abilities in this campaign. From one side Iraq is claiming that POW's are being killed and on the other side Bahrain began this recent uproar.

The Majlis speaker added: Several weeks ago a number of people were arrested in Bahrain; not even one Iranian was included among them. From reports we have received we have been informed that some of those arrested come from the Saudi Kingdom and some other Arab countries. Nevertheless, Bahrain, claiming that some of those arrested had previously travelled to Iran, has levelled accusations against Iran.

This false uproar should have little effect on the friends of our Islamic revolution because Iran's stand is quite clear. The objective behind these allegations is to frighten Iran's enemies and to unite them against us. I would like to announce Iran's stand in this respect and say that the sheykhdoms of the Persian Gulf region do not have any cause to worry or take a defensive stand against Iran. They can be assured that the powerful and Muslim Iran can stand beside them and contribute to their stability. If these countries take the right path and refuse to be America's puppets, move in the interests of their nations and remain with God, then Islamic Iran will be their supporter.

The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, answering a question on whether Iran will be able to carry out defensive operations inside Iraqi territory, considering the fact that fighting spirit is increasing among the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said: We have said from the beginning that we do not covet Iraqi territory, we are satisfied with what is rightfully ours and until now we have only defended ourselves.

But war is war, and if the enemy remains on our soil then we cannot stop ourselves from penetrating enemy territory. As long as Iraq's aggression persists, we reserve the right to go anywhere, considering the interests of the war and the Islamic Republic, and subject to the approval of the Supreme Defense Council. We are presently in a war situation and if we deem it necessary we will consider it our right to defend ourselves on Iraqi soil.

Replying to a question about Hafiz al-Asad's recent trips to Arab countries, and whether this can be effective in countering the occupying regime of Jerusalem's aggressions and domination, the Majlis speaker said: These trips can increase mutual understanding and are effective since Muslim countries will be stronger if they are closer to each other. But we think it is unlikely that countries like the Saudi Kingdom, the whole existence of which is closely related to that of the United States, would, under the present circumstances, stand against America. We know that Israel is not separate from America, and today a serious confrontation with Israel is in effect a confrontation with the United States. Israel is one of America's satellites which directly implements U.S. policies in the region; Americans consider Israel as a vital point in the Middle East. If Mr Hafiz al-Asad imagines that Saudi Arabia, given its present nature, might one day fight Israel, I consider it highly unlikely. At present, the Saudi Kingdom and Israel are both of the same nature, politically, they both guard American interests. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: These trips might succeed in reducing the division between Muslims, thus weakening Israel's courage and strength.

Israel is currently making faces at the world and in spite of all others has annexed the Golan Heights. But in order to take a really serious step in this respect, all those countries which do not have an imperialist nature and which do not want to be counted among imperialism's puppets, should unite and begin a serious fight against Israel. This is a troublesome act.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, commenting on the stand taken by the reactionary countries of the region on the recent Israeli aggression, said: If countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt really condemn this shameful Israeli act, then they should follow verbal condemnation with action. If Iran condemns this act it deals blows to Israel's interests as well as to the interests of Israel's friends everywhere. If Saudi Arabia seriously condemns this act, then it should refuse to sell oil to those countries which cooperate with Israel or to those countries which cooperate with Israel or to those which support Israel until Israel announces that it has retracted this ugly decision. If Saudi Arabia sells its oil and puts its market at their disposal [as heard], then condemning this act would not have any effect. This kind of condemnation is just words and does not have any real meaning.

About the UN condemnation of Israel's decision, the Majlis speaker said: If you study Israel's dossier, from 1948 until now, there have been one or two condemnations like this one every month. Israel has gotten used to such UN announcements and decisions. Our main complaint is against Muslim and Arab countries. It would be better if they condemned this act through their own actions and did not stop at verbal condemnation.

The Majlis speaker, answering a question about Iraq's relations with countries like Kuwait, Jordan and the Saudi Kingdom, their border disputes, how after the aggression by Iraq against Iran Iraq has ended its disputes with Saudi Arabia and Jordan and what in his view has caused such a move, said: When Iraq became involved in a war with Iran, it was forced to buy the support of other countries. We know that it is not Iraq alone which is fighting against us, Aqaba port and many other facilities are at its disposal. Also Saudi money, the AWACS, Saudi roads and other facilities are at Iraq's disposal in this aggression by Saddam against our Islamic country. We have confiscated ammunition from Iraqi soldiers which bears Saudi identification. These countries have taken advantage of the circumstances and are pressuring Iraq to solve old disputes.

Of course, we are not against this. We would like Islamic countries not to have any disputes with each other. We did not intend to have any disputes with Iraq either, or the implementation of the 1975 treaty. Even now, we do not want Iraq to attack a small country like Kuwait or to have claims over Bubiyan Island. But if the outcome of the war between Iraq and Iran is that in the future Iraq will give back what is rightfully Kuwait's, it does not matter if this war is prolonged a little. We are able to take what is ours by right from Iraq but countries like the Saudi Kingdom, Kuwait and Jordan are not able to do the same.

RAFSANJANI SPEAKS ON INTERNAL OPPOSITION

LD291322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Report on speech made by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, during the 29 December open session in Tehran]

[Excerpts] The martyrdom of our dear colleague, His Excellency Mr Besharat, is a source of great regret and sadness, especially as it comes so soon after the martyrdom of another of our colleagues, Martyr Estaki.

Two points are of interest in connection with the martyrdom of such individuals. An extremely delicate point is that it has been proved that the Majlis is the true representative of the people. Our society and our revolution are at war; our best friends and dearest ones are laying their lives on the line and are being martyred while fighting the enemies of the Islamic revolution on the battlefronts. Naturally, the Majlis, as the representative of the people, is also at war -- and at a frontline position.

Our enemy is not only on the fronts. There is also the fifth column, those who have waged war against God, and the counterrevolutionaries, who are only too clearly coordinating their plans with the Saudis' Saddam. We also know that the planning is taking place elsewhere. It is only natural that as our dear ones are being martyred on the fronts, their representatives on the domestic front cannot be exempt from confronting the fifth column. It is an honor for the Majlis that in the history of world's parliaments, it is in complete harmony with the people. This will remain the case.

The second point, which is even more delicate than this and which can be a source of happiness and encouragement for us, concerns the presence in the country of armed counterrevolution and minigroups. [sentence as heard] These groups have been fed and are still being fed by many sources in the special circumstances following the revolution. Something we know for a fact is that this great obstacle to the people's movement must be removed. While they exist, however weakly, it will be impossible for the country to gain calm and for the revolution to achieve its objectives. A psychological, mental condition is necessary in order to eliminate the counterrevolution. We have witnessed the fact that because of the extensive dimensions of the consequences of the struggle against the counterrevolution, an attitude of kindness and mercy gradually overcomes the authorities concerned, particularly the Majlis deputies. Then people say that something should be done for these youngsters. People say that they have blinded themselves with their own hands. They commit a crime, an incident every few days to prepare the thoughts and minds of the people and the authorities and in order to sound a fresh alert to the effect that mercy upon a sharp-toothed leopard is wrong. Right from the start, when terrorism began, with their own hands they daily opened the way toward their own purge and toward the elimination of this thorn from the blossom of the revolution.

We have adopted a defensive posture against the counterrevolution just as we have adopted a defensive posture on the Iraqi front in the war aginst Saddam. The nation and people as well as fair-minded ones in the world today feel with everything in their beings that the Iranian nation and the Iranian Islamic revolution have no alternative other than a sharp and bloody purge of those who think only of serving foreigners and of blind revenge.

SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON DOMESTIC, FOREIGN POLICIES

LD291416 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Ahmad Tavakkoli, minister of labor and social affairs and the government spokesman, held a press conference this morning. He answered questions by domestic correspondents on current affairs and on our foriegn policy, including Saudi Arabia's proposal to unite the countries of the Persian Gulf region and other Arab countries against Iran; the stance taken by the opposers of the Islamic revolution in the face of Iran's victories; why Islamic councils were not formed; and on the primary estimates related to planning next year's budget. The government spokesman first criticized the press for its choice of titles and on its reporting. He said: My last interview, as carried by the media, was misleading. Therefore, I ask the press not to publish incomplete or untrue items.

Concerning the delay in the implementation of the plan to form Islamic councils in factories, he said: These councils were to be formed according to the law ratified by the Revolution Council, which was to last for 1 year only. Therefore, formation of these councils is no longer legal. But the operation of those councils which have already been formed will be studied and a more comprehensive, better bill of law will be compiled with amendments to the former law. Therefore, future councils would be formed by a more complete and better law. He said the responsibilities of these councils should be decided according to certain regulations so that these councils can lead the country toward self-sufficiency by increasing production and public [word indistinct].

Answering a question on internal security, Mr Tavakkoli said: Because of the cooperation from the 36-million-strong intelligence service, we have been successful; we still rely on this cooperation. We ask the people to increase their assistance so that any activity by minigroups can be foiled. On the other hand, we are sure that those who have been deceived will soon realize, in contacts with the people, that their path is not the correct one. Some realize the truth within 1 hour of their imprisonment.

Concerning the budget, he said: We do have a budget deficit -- the result of the economy we inherited. We should change the direction of this economy, but since this is an old disease it will take a long time to cure. Therefore, at present, we are forced to sell oil. But we have plans to increase our non-oil exports, and in next year's budget we will try to assist and develop key industries. We will try to create jobs which will be less dependent. We will submit next year's budget to the Majlis in the first half of the month of Bahman [21 January - 4 February].

Dealing with the trip by the Saudi Arabian interior minister to Iraq, and the proposal to mobilize Arabs against Iran, he said: After announcing Iran's views on cooperation councils and treaties, even Haig and Reagan were forced to come out in their support [as heard], since the possibility of Saddam's fall has increased. In this way they are trying to help Iraq in the war it has imposed on us.

The government spokesman added: We ask the countries of the Persian Gulf region not to get involved in such conspiracies; otherwise, they will receive the same fate as Saddam. Of course, we would like Arabs to be united, but this unity should not be planned by the United States. These countries should know that we do not covet any country and are only fighting for our own freedom and independence. He added: The selflessness shown by our forces on the war fronts has forced the enemy to retreat. Now they might stage a coup d'etat inside Iraq in order to maintain their own positions [as heard]; we will announce our stand in this respect later.

Commenting on the border demarcations between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, he said: This is the result of the blood of our martyrs. Iraq previously considered itself to be powerful, and would not submit to such things, but now that it is weakening, countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are trying to determine their exact borders in order to secure their interests.

Concerning trips made by peace delegations to Tehran, the government spokesman said: The activities of these delegations are directly related to the war fronts; whenever we have been strong they have begun their activities. Of course, we believe that there can be no peace negotiations with aggressors, and as long as 1 inch of our land is occupied by aggressors we will give all we have to free our country.

Commenting on the foreign exchange situation and oil exports, Mr Tavakkoli said: Our situation with regard to foreign exchange is favorable. The Economic Council has assigned a committee to control foreign exchange transactions. We have economic problems resulting from the war and the U.S. economic war against Iran, but as the government's stand has become more decisive in these confrontations, so has economic pressure increased. Since our economy is dependent on others, we have suffered. But with government programs and the people's cooperation we will surmount our problems. He said our oil exports are good and our sales have increased.

KHOMEYNI REOPENS 'PURIFIED' TEACHERS COLLEGES

LD282059 Tehran PARS in English 1630 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 28 Dec (PARS) -- With the message of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the teachers' training colleges all over Iran commenced work with 17,000 students enrolled.

Tehran witnessed the opening of 12 such centers and other teachers' training schools opened throughout the provinces. The first term has been named in honour of the martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar.

The center for exceptional students started work with 300 students enrolled. First some verses of the holy Koran were read and then the message of Imam Khomeyni was broadcast over the radio. The full text of the imam's message is as follows:

"In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I was asked by the teachers' training general department to speak on the inception of their work all over the country. While thanking the authorities for their work, it is necessary for me to reiterate once again the importance of a subject I have time and again emphasised. No doubt the world-devourers have no better way to attain their sinister ends, and to subjugate the oppressed people of the world, than to make inroads on the culture and the literature of the wronged countries, by a Western or Eastern-inspired teachers' training so that schools and high schools will be prepared for imparting a Western or Eastern upbringing to the youth who are the future statesmen administrators of each country.

"Through such training (?including the youth) towards the power poles, the way for the oppressors of the world would be paved to entrap the downtrodden countries suitably with ease and without recourse to rusty military arms.

"What would be better for those (the arrogant) than a method in which some of the indigenous people of each country quietly and eagerly draw the nations towards their goals (the arrogant ones) so that they (the oppressed) would politely and abjectly present to them the fruit of their labour and the resources of their countries.

"The fatal blows struck upon this nation by the universities, and the deviated professors with their Western training who ruled over the scientific and training centers, during the last 50 years, were never received from the bayonets of Reza Khan and his son. True, there were some dedicated professors and teachers, although they held no position. We rid ourselves from the evil of Reza Khan and Mohammad Reza, but we have yet to be rid of the evil of those brought up by the West and East, (?these perpetuators) of the super-powers dominance, (?who are servile and) are not disarmed by any logic.

Now they have not stopped their conspiring against the Islamic Republic and breaking this magnanimous divine solid wall notwithstanding all their bankruptcies. The beloved nation of Iran and other wronged countries of the world, have no other alternative to rectify their culture and to reach independence if they want to be saved once and for all from the satanic traps of the powers. This is not feasible unless the committed professors and teachers who have entered schools from elementary schools up to the level of universities, can train and edify the students, who are the country's source and the inspiration of the nation, along the lines of an education, in all subjects, based on Islamic teachings.

"Those dedicated teachers must purify the teachers' training colleges from the deviated, malign elements. Islamic disciplines, which are the teachers of ethics and the purifier of souls, must be entrusted to the hands of Islamic experts to make dear youth enjoy this comprehensive familiar school of thought and its theoretical and practical perceptions.

"Rest assured that Islam is a school of thought which inspires people so that they will not succumb to any power, but the just one, and the origin of creation, and not be moved by any power, not sacrifice their country's interests for any reason and safeguard their independence and freedom and that of other servants of God, without greed or fear, and avoiding selfishness and self-centeredness, from which flow all evils.

"And you dear ones, who are intent on the path of teachers' training, be aware of the profundity of your works' merit and do not neglect anything on the path of this sublime goal and consecrate yourselves to the task of God and His servants, and know that God is with you and will grant you success.

"May peace and the mercy of God and his blessings be upon you."

KHAMENE'I, KHUZESTAN OFFICIALS DISCUSS REGION

LD292250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Governor General of Khuzestan Mohammad Hasan Tavalla'i, together with departmental heads from the governor general's office, governors and members of the Guards Corps Command Council and reconstruction crusade in the province, tonight met with Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic.

During the meeting, and following a report given by the governor general of Khuzestan on the situation in the region, Mr Khamene'i said the following about the reconstruction of war zones:

Apart from the problem of the war and the war victims, you brothers are responsible for the reconstruction of the region after the war, and in fact the responsible officials in Khuzestan Province shoulder one of the most onerous burdens for the country's administration, both from the standpoint of the province's social fabric and the efforts and endeavors which the population of the province expect of you.

Expressing appreciation for the consistent efforts of the responsible officials in Khuzestan Province, the president said: In Ahvaz I saw the unstinting efforts by certain brothers who were participating in all the arenas of constructive endeavor in that province, whether they were from the Guards Corps, the reconstruction crusade or the responsible brothers from the governor general's office.

Continuing his speech, and expressing hope for a victorious conclusion of the imposed war, the president said: After the war, after all the hardships you have suffered, you will witness your own victory and that of the people and tribes of this region. That time will be the time for construction. Right now, you should prepare yourselves for the difficult task of reconstruction.

He added: You and the country's top officials and the entire Iranian people should know that our fundamental struggle later will be our struggle for construction and, therefore, we should prepare ourselves right now for this construction.

Referring to Khuzestan Province's social fabric, the president said: Certain people exist in that region who, throughout the rule of the evil Pahlavi regime, did not gain much either from the material point of view or from the moral and cultural standpoint. I used to see certain country folk in that region whose standard of living used to be a cause for astonishment, nor was there much cultural work done in that region. Despite this, I used to see clearly in these country folk a humanitarian attribute and a spirit of resistance to difficulties; this in itself is a cause for pride for us. Despite the fact that the Islamic Republic has not had the opportunity to carry out cultural, construction and economic work among these country folk, these people are loyal to the Islamic Republic.

Affirming the fact that in the Islamic Republic there is discrimination between racial, linguistic, sectarian and ethnic groups, the president said: If Persianism were deemed to be a fundamental issue among some special group in this realm -- and fortunately such trends are waning and disappearing from our society -- the universal belief of the government and the nation of Iran is not to discriminate between these linguistic, racial, ethnic and sectarian groups.

The president added: There is no difference between an Arab, Persian, Turk, Lor, Kurd, Baluchi, Turkmen or other linguistic, ethnic and racial groups in Iran from the standpoint of our Constitution, our illustrious leader, the nation's responsible officials and the overwhelming majority of our nation and our Islamic religion and faith; this is a cause of pride for us.

Referring to the nonsensical and stupid claims by the regime of the aggressive Saddam accusing the Islamic Republic of Persianism, the president said: This is the most astounding remark and claim. At a time when we, whether Persian, Arab, Turk, Lor or any other linguistic groups in Iran, are fighting shoulder-to-shoulder on our borders, and when our propaganda machines, people or statesmen have not even once said a word about Persians being better or superior to other linguistic groups, we are being accused by the aggressive enemy of being a Persian government favouring Persianism! This is taking place at a time when the selfsame Iraqi Government whose social fabric is made up of sundry linguistic groups, including Turks and Kurds, is acting contrary to honor, honorable Arab principles and proud Arab attributes and which continuously babbles about Arabism. We, who have been accused of Persianism, have never said a word about it, but those people who deem themselves innocent of such ethnic and sectarian issues continuously babble about Arabism -- and Saddamist Arabism at that, the Arabism peculiar to the rotten leaders of Iraq!

Continuing his speech, the president said: What the Iraqi regime's officials call Arabism does not mean the great Arabic-speaking society throughout the region, since a great many Arab governments today recognize what is right and support it. In this imposed war, all the progressive and advanced governments in the region have recognized what is right and support us, and reject the officials of the mercenary and subservient regime of Iraq.

The president emphasised: Throughout the Middle East, North Africa, the Persian Gulf countries and in other regions, nations everywhere consider the Islamic Republic to be a just system in accordance with the Islamic faith. They recognise Saddam and the mercenaries of the superpowers in Iraq as aggressors. Behind the Arabism boasted by the agents of the Baghdad regime lies an Arabism which is the monopoly of and peculiar to the agents of that regime. And it is for this reason that the enemy's first bombs and shells were poured on the heads of the Arabs in the Khuzestan region, and thousands of homes of faithful and genuine Iranian Arabs who believe in the Islamic Republic throughout the region were subjected to plunder by the agents of that usurping government.

Continuing his address, he said: The aggressive regime in power in Baghdad today is betraying Arab aspirations in the garb of Arabism.

For the Arab community and the great Islamic family today, no aspiration is dearer or more precious than defeating Israeli aggression. We see that Iraq's aggressive rulers, instead of devoting their forces to the struggle against Israel, are confronting the great forces of the Islamic Republic, whose thirst for struggle against Israel permeates their very being. Today, this double crime is shouldered by Baghdad's agent rulers. These people have, in fact, prevented two armies and two immense forces from confronting Israel. In this case why should we be surprised by the fact that Israel officially considers the Golan Heights as belonging to it?

He emphasized: When in those countries claiming Arabism, senseless, selfish and glory-seeking elements pit two great, equipped and powerful armies against each other and subject two nations with all the resulting losses, to the slavery of an imposed war, then it is no cause for wonder that Israel, too, makes use of the opportunity and threatens the Syrian Government in such a manner, when it is alone waging struggle against Israel on the front line today, and annexes the Golan Heights.

The president said: We believe that all the Islamic, Arab and non-Arab forces in the Islamic world should be mobilized against usurping Israel. For our part, we deem this as a duty for our forces. Their first duty is to expel the aggressors from their own soil; then they will wage struggle against Israel, which is the major enemy and the filthy cat's paw of colonialism and U.S. world domination in the region.

In conclusion, while wishing success to those present, the president expressed the hope that he would be able to be among them in Khuzestan Province once again.

MAJLIS APPROVES BILL ON PARS NAME CHANGE

LD291248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Excerpt] At the open session of the Majlis today, a bill on changing the name of PARS NEWS AGENCY to the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY [IRNA] was debated and approved. This single-article bill states that the name of PARS NEWS AGENCY is to be changed to IRNA, effective immediately.

IRANIAN REPORTERS VISIT RECAPTURED REGIONS

LD292224 Tehran IRNA in English 1913 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 29 Dec (IRNA) -- The liberated regions of Azkeleh and Galleh Sefid were visited by IRNA reporters on Monday, who said that the Feda'iyan-e Imam Khomeyni, while fortifying their new positions, are repelling enemy offensives one after the other. In these attacks the enemy suffered 16 casualties and some enemy weapons were seized as well. Purging operations are firmly continuing in this region, the reporters said.

Also today clashes broke out in the Gardanehno region. One tank and one command jeep of the Iraqi aggressors were destroyed by the RPG-7 units of the Feda'iyan and the munitions inside the tanks were also seized by the Feda'iyan.

In the Sartak region, inside Iraq, two vehicles and one tank of the enemy were destroyed.

In Monday's operations three combatants of the Feda'iyan were martyred.

TEHRAN REPORTS IRAQIS USING KUWAITI PORTS

GF300534 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Dec 81

[Text] The director of Kuwaiti ports announced yesterday that the ports worked at their maximum capacity during the past 14 months.

In 1981, 6 million tons of goods and commodities were unloaded at these ports. This is 31 percent more than goods unloaded in 1977.

Political observers attribute this increase in Kuwaiti ports capacity during this period to the fact that the Iraqi regime has been using them. Proof of this is that the capacity of Iraqi ports sharply decreased after Iraq started its war against Iran.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 744

LD291814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Communique 744 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. By honoring the blood of martyrs on the path of God and bloodstained martyrs on the path of defending honor and prestige and the territorial integrity of our Islamic homeland, dear Iran, and by sending regards to the proud families of these martyrs, some of the self-sacrifices of combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are brought to the attention of the Muslim and grateful Islamic nation:

Yesterday fire was exchanged on the Ahvaz, Susangerd, Bostan and Abadan fronts; our powerful and victorious combatants, while defending their own position, inflicted some losses and damages on the enemy.

On the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts, the brave fighters of the navy returned enemy fire, bringing the Saddamists' positions under fire. While silencing the enemy fire, they killed four enemy troops and destroyed four of their trenches.

On the western fronts of Dezful, the combatants of the ground forces returned the enemy fire and prevented the Saddamist forces from carrying out their operations. Our forces launched a series of surprise operations and inflicted considerable losses and damages on the enemy. Several enemy troops were also killed.

During the past 24 hours, battle and fire exchange continued on the western fronts of the country, particularly on the Gilan-e Gharb fronts. Thanks to ground forces fire on enemy positions, enemy movements were stopped and their fire was silenced. While preventing the enemy from carrying out any operations, our forces either killed or wounded 45 personnel of the Iraqi invading forces. During these operations, several trenches and heavy and lightweight Iraqi weapons were destroyed; according to the reports received, on one of the Gilan-e Gharb fronts and 60 percent of the tank emplacements of the Saddamists were destroyed.

During the battle of 27 December, 65 combatants from the best comrades-in-arms of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and one of the Gendarmerie soldiers, gained the exalted status of martyrdom. May God's mercy be upon the glorious souls of these martyrs, whose memories will live forever, and on their dear families.

TROOPS CLASH WITH REBELS IN WESTERN PROVINCES

24 Dec Report

LD241554 Tehran PARS in English 1449 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 23 Dec (PARS) -- On Monday 30 to 40 counterrevolutionaries were killed or wounded in a clash between them and the Islamic combatants in the Tamarchin region near Piranshahr in West Azarbayjan Province. In this clash one minibus belonging to the rebels was destroyed. Also reports received from Urumiyeh, the provincial capital of West Azarbayjan, said that on the same day a clash broke out between the Kurdish peshmarga and the gendarmerie forces on one side and insurgents on the other, in Mahabad, also in that province, during which heavy casualties were inflicted upon the latter.

In this clash two of the Muslim combatants were martyred and five others were wounded. There were no immediate reports on the exact casualties of the insurgents.

In the meantime, in the Marivan region of Chenareh, in Kordestan Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were killed or wounded when a clash occurred between insurgents and the Islamic forces. Also, two mortar launchers, one vehicle and one group tent belonging to insurgents were destroyed.

26 Dec Report

LD260956 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0820 GMT 26 Dec 81

[Text] During a clash between the brother guards and counterrevolutionaries in the 'Abbasabad District of Sanandaj on 20 December, several of the bandits were either killed or wounded and several of them were arrested by the defenders of the Islamic revolution.

On the same day, the defenders of the Islamic revolution, through their vigilance and constant efforts, exposed a treacherous plot which armed American minigroups had hatched with the intention of attacking the brother guards positioned in a district of Sanandaj. During a clash which followed, two of the counterrevolutionaries were killed and one of them was wounded.

Rebels Killed

LD271742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Dec 81

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced tonight in a communique that at dawn today the combatants of Islam purged six km of the road between Mahabad and Sar Dasht and the villages surrounding the road, including Hamidabad village, of rebels who are connected with counterrevolutionary minigroups. In these operations, which resulted in the death of at least 7 rebels and the arrest of a further 13, our forces were not harmed at all.

Also, the base used by members of the defunct [Kurdish] Democratic Party in [name indistinct] village near Divandarreh was destroyed by the selfless personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the rebels occupying it were forced to flee.

Yesterday, a patrol of guards brothers was involved in a confrontation with illegally armed assailants near Sanandaj, as a result of which three counterrevolutionaries were killed.

On 24 December a group of brother guards was confronted by assailants, members of the defunct Democratic Party. As a result, 10 counterrevolutionaries were killed and a large number were injured. One of the brother guards was martyred and another injured in this confrontation.

MOJAHEDIN LEADERS EXECUTED FOR 28 JUN BOMBING

LD281802 Tehran PARS in English 1620 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 28 Dec (PARS) -- Mehdi Bokra'i, Habib Moharramdust and Masumeh Shademanifard, all members of the monafeqin (MKO) [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] Central Council, were executed on Sunday after being found guilty of complicity in the June 28 bombing of the Islamic Republic Party headquarters in Tehran, martyring 72 government officials, including Chief Justice Ayatollah Dr Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti.

Other counts for their conviction also included: stealing weapons and munitions for the monafeqin, participating in helping treacherous leaders of the monafeqin escape, participating in decision to declare an insurrection against the Islamic Republic, stealing government documents of the former and present regime, and making grenades for sabotage and assassination.

CLANDESTINE RADIO ON INFILTRATION OF IRP

GF281608 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 28 Dec 81

[Text] According to the Free Voice of Iran correspondent, following the infiltration of combatants into the Islamic Republican Party [IRP], a number of the party's members have been arrested in Tehran and other provinces. Citing the newspaper KEYHAN, which is under the Khomeyni regime's censorship, the Free Voice of Iran correspondent reports that one of the regime's opponents in Torbat-e Heydariyeh managed to infiltrate the IRP. However, he was identified and executed.

By infiltrating the IRP freedom fighters have managed to identify the party's active members and have given their home addresses to National Resistance Movement organizations.

NVOI ASSAILS IRANIAN STAND ON AFGHANISTAN

TA292046 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 29 Dec 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Let Us Not Close Our Eyes in the Face of Realities"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: With deep regret, some superficial and monopolist individuals who have still not been able to liberate themselves from the burden of the intimations of the Bani-Sadrs, the Qotbzadehs, the Entezams and the liberal implementors of Brzezinski's guideline, have imposed on the Islamic government permission for demonstrations by a group of fugitive and counterrevolutionary Afghans residing in our country, and the issuance of a statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this connection. The issue of the activity of Afghan fugitives who operate in our country and Pakistan under the Islamic umbrella in the name of the so-called mujahidin and under the leadership of a group associated with the CIA and Mossad and reactionary and bloody regimes, such as the regimes of Ziaul Haq, Qabus, the Saudis and the annihilated As-Sadat, is not an issue of yesterday or today. If more than a year ago there still existed persons who under the impact of the propaganda wave of imperialist, and especially American, mass media, were in error or doubt in distinguishing the reality of the situation in Afghanistan and the nature of the so-called Afghan mujahidin groups, today time has torn the mask from the face of these Islamic mujahidin and implementors of the orders of Brzezinski and regimes dependent on the United States, and has exposed the ugly face of the actual leaders of these groups.

Even in these very newspapers of our own country not a day passes without reports being published about the crimes, murders, killings, plunderings and immoral acts, or about the connection of these so-called Islamic Mujahidin with the espionage services of the United States, Britain and reactionary regimes opposed to the Iranian revolution.

No one doubts the fact that among these refugee and fugitive groups, certain deceived individuals who have been influenced by the propaganda of a handful of mercenaries of world-devouring America and a group of big landowners and pseudoclergy are not few. But if no one is aware, our Islamic Republic's impartial and realistic authorities know that the string of all these so-called Afghan Islamic groups is pulled by the intelligence services of the United States, Britain and their puppet and subservient regimes.

Are our country's government figures not aware that the leaders of these so-called Islamic mujahidin groups have been many times in contact with senior officials of the West's intelligence services, and that they have received and continue to receive funds and weapons from them? Are our country's officials not aware that high-ranking U.S. and British military, intelligence and political officials, including the Zionist Brzezinski and Mrs Thatcher, have repeatedly visited the camps of these so-called Islamic mujahidin in Pakistan?

If the Islamic government had given permission to the Brzezinskis and the Thatchers, they would have gladly visited the camps and offices of these Islamic mujahidin in Iran also; and if the line of the Bani-Sadrs had succeeded, this play would have been enacted in our own country, too.

Did our country's rulers not hear from Mrs Thatcher herself, in the course of her inspection of the camps of the Islamic Afghan mujahidin in Pakistan, while encouraging them to step up subversion and killings in Afghanistan, that she increased financial aid to these saboteurs and professional killers to 400 million pounds?

Are our country's officials not aware that the annihilated As-Sadat, during the last days of his life, openly said that in return for receiving hundreds of millions of dollars he had delivered certain weapons, which at one time the Soviet Union had placed at the disposal of the late An-Nasir government, to these so-called Islamic mujahidin so that they would set fire to mosques and drag schoolteachers and the imams of mosques into dust and blood?

Since when have Reagan and Carter, Brzezinski and Kissinger, As-Sadat and Qabus, Ziaul Haq and Khalid, or Mrs Thatcher become supporters of revolutionary Islam? These individuals, who willingly and with an open hand render such all-out support and backing to the so-called Islamic mujahidin of Afghanistan -- why are they at war with the Iranian revolution and plot against the Islamic Republic?

Today the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Egypt, Oman, Turkey and so-called Islamic Pakistan have been converted into the greatest centers of plots by Iranian counterrevolutionaries and the dregs of the former regime. Have you ever heard from any of the officials of the countries of the Islamic steadfastness front, such as Syria, Libya, Algeria and Democratic Yemen, a word in support of these so-called Afghan Muslim mujahidin? Of course not.

In contrast, officials of the White House, the British conservatives, Germany, France and subservient regimes like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Oman, Pakistan and so forth have taken these so-called Islamic mujahidin under their protective wing as much as possible.

The question posed to every Iranian is: In this turbulent world, in this world where 2 distinct lines have placed the globe and the people of the world in two mutually discordant poles -- the front of imperialism and the front of destruction on the one hand, and the anti-imperialist front and the steadfastness front on the other -- with whom are we and in which pole do we stand? How can one both simultaneously struggle against imperialism and be in harmony with the leaders of antinational and antihuman plots, such as Brzezinski, the annihilated As-Sadat, Ziaul Haq, Thatcher, Reagan and Khalid, about a specific problem like Afghanistan? How long do we want to close our eyes in the face of realities? And how long do we want to sacrifice the goals of our nation's popular and anti-imperialist revolution under the influence of a group of pseudo-Muslims or so-called fake Afghan descendants? Where were these pseudo-Muslims and Afghan descendants during the oppressive rule of Mohammad Zahir Shah's monarchical regime? And why did they grow like mushrooms only after the overthrow of the imperial regime in Afghanistan.

All are aware that it was after the overthrow of the monarchical regime in Afghanistan that all the so-called Islamic mujahidin fled with a number of deceived individuals into Iran and Pakistan during the regime of the annihilated shah. From that time, in accordance with the recommendation of U.S. espionage services, both the annihilated shah and Ziaul Haq rendered protection to these fugitives for the sake of specific objectives, namely, the overthrow of the republican system in Afghanistan. Currently, too, the implementation of that main goal of U.S. imperialism, namely, the overthrow of Afghanistan's republican and anti-imperialist system, is before these fake mujahidin of Carter's and Reagan's Islam, in addition to one other goal: plotting within the Islamic Republic of Iran and weakening it.

Will we continue to close our eyes in the face of all these realities?